

[English]

Misguidance of flight at Bombay Airport

3155. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incoming flight of the Indian Airlines Boeing 737 from Patna on August 27, 1991 was misguided at Bombay Airport; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken to avoid such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was due to wrong radar vectoring.

Corrective steps will be taken on the basis of the recommendations of the Inquiring Authority.

Japanese Aid for Aravalli Hills

3156. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has given any aid for the Aravalli Hills Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). A project for "Aforestation of Aravalli Hills" in Rajasthan has been appraised by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan, for provision of financial assistance. The Proposed cost of the project is Rs. 166.90 crores which will be implemented in the Aravalli hill areas of Rajasthan. The Project envisages plantations over 1,50,000 hectares of land, distribution of 750 lakh

seedlings, soil and moisture conservation works and related activities. The project is expected to be finally negotiated with Japan in the near future.

Facilities to passengers by Indian Airlines

3157. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the details of the steps taken to provide better facilities to passengers travelling by the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Indian Airlines has identified among other things, courtesy and comfort to passengers as thrust areas of its services. The following measures have been taken in this regard:

- Standardised 3 digits telephone enquiry has been provided on all- India basis.

- Tele-texr services through Door-darshan to be extended to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, in addition to Delhi where it already exists.

- Introduction of a computerised delay information dissemination system named "Rapid" which automatically dials all passengers of a delayed flight whose telephone numbers are available with Indian Airlines to intimate them about the re-scheduled departure timing. This system has been introduced on an experimental basis in Delhi and, if found successful, may be extended to other places also.

- Computerised and free check in facility has been made available at Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore. This facility is being extended to other stations in a phased manner.

- Close monitoring of on time performance.

- Inflight catering has been improved quality control checks, introduction of 14

different new menus, introduction of new crockery and cutlery in Executive class.

Study on tribals of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh

3158. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, has submitted the reports of the study carried out on Genetic and Socio cultural Determinants of tribal health of a primitivetible Kutla Kondlis (Orissa) and Baster tribal groups of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main recommendations and suggestions made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations relate to socio-cultural and environmental awareness; Nutrition; Maternal and Child Health, Genetic Disorders; School Education and Land and Forest.

Maharashtra Express from Gondia to Kolhapur

3159. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives have been received for running of the Maharashtra Express from Gondia to Kolhapur instead of Nagpur;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to extend Maharashtra Express upto Gondia.

(c) Extension is not feasible on account of operational and resources constraints.

Dwindling of Siberian Cranes

3160. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

(a) whether the Siberian Cranes population has been dwindling away at the Ghana (Bharatpur) Bird Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to preserve the Crane population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). There is a decline in the number of Siberian Cranes arriving at the Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur) each year for wintering. The exact reasons for this decline are not known. It may be due too poor breeding of the birds in their breeding grounds in Siberia, their decimation during their long migration to Keoladeo over different countries or use of alternative wintering grounds by these birds due to recurrent droughts in the Keoladeo National Park.

(c) Steps taken /proposed to be taken to preserve the Siberian cranes includ:

(i) The Siberian crane has been included in Schedul I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus giving it maximum possible legal Protection.

(ii) Central assistance is being provided for the development and conservation of the Keoladeo National Park, including for ameliorating the drought conditions whenever they prevail.